

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Currently Amended) A tire comprising at least one tread layer consisting of a tread rubber made of a low-conductive rubber and an electrically conductive band arranged in widthwise middle portion of the tread rubber and constituting at least a part of a conductive path from a belt to a treading face of a tread in which a first tread rubber portion of the tread rubber separated from a second tread rubber portion by the electrically conductive band~~and~~ is arranged so as to orient a side face thereof contacting with the electrically conductive band~~and~~ outward in the radial direction, and the electrically conductive band is made of a high-conductive thin annular rubber sheet and connected to both ends of the side face in the radial direction so as to extend over a widthwise region ranging from a part of a top face of the first tread rubber portion toward a part of a bottom face of the~~a~~ second tread rubber portion separated by the electrically conductive band.
3. (Original) A tire according to claim 2, wherein the tread rubber is made of a low-conductive continuous rubber ribbon circumferentially wound plural times.

4. (Previously Presented) A tire according to claim 2, wherein the side face of the first tread rubber portion contacting with the electrically conductive band has an average inclination angle of 45-75° with respect to an equatorial plane of the tire.

5. (Previously Presented) A tire according to claim 2, wherein the tread layer is arranged as at least innermost layer in the radial direction.

6. (Currently Amended) A tire according to claim 2~~claim 1~~, wherein at least two layers as the tread layer are arranged adjacent to each other inside and outside in the radial direction and the electrically conductive bands in these tread layers are contacted with each other over the full periphery.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a tire comprising at least one tread layer consisting of a tread rubber made of a low-conductive rubber and an electrically conductive band arranged in widthwise middle portion of the tread rubber and constituting at least a part of a conductive path from a belt to a treading face of a tread in which the tread rubber is made of a low-conductive continuous rubber ribbon circumferentially wound plural times, and the electrically conductive band is made of a high-conductive thin annular rubber sheet~~as claimed in claim 1, the method comprising which comprises~~ winding a thin high-conductive uncured rubber sheet on an outer periphery of a rotating, displacing tire raw member one time to form an uncured electrically conductive band.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a tire comprising at least one tread layer consisting of a tread rubber made of a low-conductive rubber and an electrically conductive band arranged in widthwise middle portion of the tread rubber and constituting at least a part of a conductive path from a belt to a treading face of a tread in which the tread rubber is made of a low-conductive continuous rubber ribbon circumferentially wound plural times, and the electrically conductive band is made of a high-conductive thin annular rubber sheet~~as claimed in claim 1, the method comprising which comprises~~ circumferentially winding a continuous low-conductive uncured rubber ribbon plural times to form an uncured tread rubber.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein an uncured first tread rubber portion is formed on the outer periphery of the rotating, displacing tire raw member by circumferentially winding a continuous low-conductive uncured rubber ribbon plural times, and then an uncured electrically conductive band is formed by winding a high-conductive uncured rubber sheet on a widthwise region inclusive of a side face of the uncured first tread rubber portion one time, and thereafter uncured second tread rubber portion is formed on outer peripheries of the rotating, displacing electrically conductive band and tire raw member by circumferentially winding a continuous low-conductive uncured rubber ribbon plural times.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the high-conductive uncured rubber sheet is formed by rolling in a calendar.

11. (New) A method of producing a tire comprising at least one tread layer consisting of a tread rubber made of a low-conductive rubber and an electrically conductive band arranged in

widthwise middle portion of the tread rubber and constituting at least a part of a conductive path from a belt to a treading face of a tread in which a first tread rubber portion of the tread rubber separated from a second tread rubber portion by the electrically conductive band is arranged so as to orient a side face thereof contacting with the electrically conductive band outward in the radial direction, and the electrically conductive band is made of a high-conductive thin annular rubber sheet and connected to both ends of the side face in the radial direction so as to extend over a widthwise region ranging from a part of a top face of the first tread rubber portion toward a part of a bottom face of the second tread rubber portion separated by the electrically conductive band, the method comprising winding a thin high-conductive uncured rubber sheet on an outer periphery of a rotating, displacing tire raw member one time to form an uncured electrically conductive band.

12. (New) A method of producing a tire comprising at least one tread layer consisting of a tread rubber made of a low-conductive rubber and an electrically conductive band arranged in widthwise middle portion of the tread rubber and constituting at least a part of a conductive path from a belt to a treading face of a tread in which a first tread rubber portion of the tread rubber separated from a second tread rubber portion by the electrically conductive band is arranged so as to orient a side face thereof contacting with the electrically conductive band outward in the radial direction, and the electrically conductive band is made of a high-conductive thin annular rubber sheet and connected to both ends of the side face in the radial direction so as to extend over a widthwise region ranging from a part of a top face of the first tread rubber portion toward a part of a bottom face of the second tread rubber portion separated by the electrically conductive

band, the method comprising circumferentially winding a continuous low-conductive uncured rubber ribbon plural times to form an uncured tread rubber.